

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 7, and 15-16 remain active in this application, Claims 2-6 and 8-14 having been canceled and Claims 1, 7, and 15 amended by the present Amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action Claims 1, 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Losser et al (6,813,480), Claims 5, 7, and 13 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Losser et al and Claims 2-4, 6, 8-12 and 14 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but otherwise were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter. In light of this indication, and to expedite issuance of a patent from the present application, Claim 1 has been amended to include the features stated in Claim 2 and Claims 2-6 have been canceled. Claim 7 has been amended to include the features stated in allowable Claim 10, and Claims 8-14 have been canceled. Cancellation of Claims 2-6 and 8-14 is made subject to Applicants' right to file divisional applications directed thereto, and filing of such divisional applications is presently in progress.

Accordingly, in view of the present amendment, each of the remaining pending claims states subject matter indicated as being allowable, and no further issues are outstanding. The

present application is therefore believed to be in condition for formal allowance, and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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